



ISSN Print: 2664-9799
ISSN Online: 2664-9802
Impact Factor: RJIF 8.2
IJHER 2023; 5(1): 04-08
www.humanitiesjournal.net
Received: 14-12-2022
Accepted: 19-01-2023

Mulehu Khesoh
Assistant Professor,
Department of History, Phek
Government College, Phek,
Nagaland, India

The relationship between history and other branches of social sciences

Mulehu Khesoh

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.33545/26649799.2023.v5.i1a.35>

Abstract

History is the study of the past - specifically the people, societies, events, and problems of the past as well as our attempts to understand them. History furnishes sufficient material for comparison and induction, enabling us to build an ideal political structure of our aspirations. History apart from being a source of precedent and prediction is also a bridge to other disciplines in order to fully grasp the understanding of other humanities and the sciences. Marwick (1989) speaks of history as a 'social necessity' it means history provides a critique of the myths that pervade society. It has a crucial corrective function in that by removing myths, it can act as the conscience of society. The report on history is concerned mainly with those persons inside, but also outside, the historical profession who are engaged in the historical work of a social science character, and with that part of historical study and training that falls within the scope of social science. This focus has no invidious implications. On the contrary, the diversity of historical work reflects the diversity of the historian's interests and of the evidence available to him; this diversity is a valuable, even indispensable, feature of the discipline.

Method and Objectives: The aim of the paper is to present how history provides an imaginative range apart from being an inventory of assets. The current study is a critical analysis of the secondary sources, followed by a semi-structured interview.

Keywords: Historian, scientific inquiry, education, behavior, judgments, and humanistic thought

Introduction

The major aim of education is the unification of knowledge existing in different branches of learning. To achieve such a unification a conscious effort has to be made by teachers teaching various subjects. It is only by such a joint venture that we will be able to achieve the goal of unification of knowledge and bridge the gap that separates them. History provides material, inspiration, and background of contemporary events and conditions to literary persons. In its turn, literature throws light on popular taste, moral and intellectual standards, prejudices, ideas, and inspirations of a nation. Political science has a close affinity with history for it studies political theories and institutions. Knowledge of history is essential for the proper understanding of the evolution of political institutions. Although the two disciplines are interrelated, there are certain dissimilarities. History helps mathematics to know about various mathematicians who were pioneers in their field and enriched mathematics through their contributions. History also provides information about the origin and development of mathematics. Mathematics helps history in regards to the calculation of dates and days etc. of various historical events. In teaching history we provide opportunities for the students for discussing speak, debating, and paper reading as also as narrating their experiences in black and white. Thus, we find a sort of correlation existing between history and language.

Defining History and Social Sciences

History is the study of man's past. Or in another word, it is the study of events in man's struggle for progress. It can also be said that history is humanistic. It is fundamentally concerned with human actions and when other things are mentioned, they are generally incidental or relative. What is important in history is events, and the assumption has nothing to do with them, as it is not concerned with things that did not happen. History is concerned with change. The historian is primarily interested in changing life's political, social,

Corresponding Author:
Mulehu Khesoh
Assistant Professor,
Department of History, Phek
Government College, Phek,
Nagaland, India

economic, artistic, philosophical, and scientific aspects. History is time and place oriented. History is scientific. Historical writing is based not only on the inquiry into evidence of events but also on a rational analysis of data. History is an independent branch of study. It is self-explanatory, for it exists on its own, reflecting upon the human experiences in the past and promoting a better understanding of the present ^[1]. History, as a branch of knowledge, has developed its own concepts and methods by which it can collect data on past events, evaluate these data, and organize them into meaningful one. Moreover, twentieth-century historians. Historian academicians have placed history on life's political, social, economic, artistic, philosophical, and scientific aspects and the social sciences (political sciences, economics, and sociology) ^[2].

Social Science was first used in place of sociology with its original connotation being the science of society. Established in the 19th century, social science is the branch of science devoted to the study of societies, lands, behaviors, and the relationships among individuals within those societies or communities. While studying societies and their relationships, you cannot pretend not to agree with the fact that social science also studies ontology, that is, the beginning of human societies and the geographical connection or boundaries they share. There are diverse disciplines now branches of knowledge that are taught and researched at the college or university level. It now encompasses a wide array of academic disciplines, including anthropology, archaeology, economics, human geography, linguistics, management science, political science, psychology, and history ^[3].

Social science disciplines are defined and recognized by the academic journals in which research is published, and the learned social science societies and academic departments or faculties to which their practitioners belong. Social science fields of study usually have several sub-disciplines or branches, and the distinguishing lines between these are often both arbitrary and ambiguous.³ Social Studies or Social Sciences is the combination of all Social Subjects or studies related to our society, subjects like History, Economics, Political Sciences, Civics, and Sociology are interdependent. They are also known as sister subjects ^[4].

The Relationship between History and Other Branch of Social Sciences

History is the continuous, systematic narrative and research into past human events as interpreted through historiographical paradigms or theories. When used as the name of a field of study, history refers to the study and interpretation of the record of humans, societies, institutions, and any topic that has changed over time. The study of history has been considered a part of the humanities. In modern academia, whether or not history remains a humanities-based subject is contested. However, the National Research Council classifies history as a social science. The historical method comprises the techniques and

guidelines by which historians use primary sources and other evidence to research and then to write history. The relationship between social science and history involves how history as a discipline is categorically identified with social science, and whether history and geography are part of social science. Following the need to understand the relationship between social science and history, you will have to first understand what social science means and why and how it is very much related to History and Geography. Why are there communication problems between the different disciplines of the social sciences? And why should there be so much misunderstanding?

Most probably because the encounter of several disciplines is in fact the encounter of several different histories, and therefore of several different cultures, each interpreting the other according to the code dictated by its own culture. Inevitably geographers view other disciplines through their own cultural filter, and even a benevolent view remains 'ethnocentric'. It was in order to avoid such ethnocentricity that Fernand Braudel called for more unity among the social sciences in 1958: I wish the social sciences...would stop discussing their respective differences so much...and instead look for common ground...on which to reach their first agreement.

History and Sociology

History and Sociology are closely and intimately related to each other. Sociology cannot be separated from History and History cannot be isolated from Sociology. This is why Professor G.E. Howard remarked "History is the past sociology and Sociology is the present History." John Seely says that "History without Sociology has no fruit; Sociology without History has no root" ^[5]. Sociology is a social science that studies human societies, their interactions, and the processes that preserve and change them. Sociology is also concerned with the study of historical developments in society. Sociologist studies ancient or old traditions, culture, and the growth of civilizations, groups, and institutions through historical analysis and interpretations. Sociologists often refer to history to explain social changes, developments, and changing face of society over a period of time. Similarly, history also needs social aspects (Sociological concepts) to explain the past. Social change is a reality. It has to happen. History shows a mirror or a true way to analyze it with respect to time and space. Sociology as a discipline may provide help in terms of offering a particular frame of mind to study history and its phenomenal developments. Both past and presets are equally important to understand any social issue in totality and in-depth.

Both History and Sociology depend upon each other and can influence one another. Sociology depends upon History in order to study past events and situations. The history of cultures and institutions is helpful in the understanding of sociology and the collective materials. In order to understand the past society and activities, we need to take the help of History. Sociology is concerned with the study of the historical development of human society. It studies ancient customs, modes of living, various stages of life, and past social institutions through historical analysis. This information about the past is of great importance to a sociologist. In the same way, Sociology provides a social

¹ K. Rajayan, A Study in Historiography: History in Theory and Method (Madurai: np, 1982), 26-27.

² John C B Webster, Studying History (New Delhi: Rajiv Beri, 1997), 12.

³ Malcolm Williams, Science and Social Science: An Introduction (np: Psychology Press, 1999), np.

⁴ "Social Science", www.Slc.edu Accessed on 11-10-2012, at 11:30pm.

⁵ Phone Interview with L.Letkhomang Haokip PhD. Research Scholar (Dept. of History) JNU, Delhi, on 12-10-2012, at 1:30am.

background for the study of History. History supplies facts, which are interpreted and coordinated by sociologists. Historians need a social background for writing and analyzing history and this is provided by sociologists. And History becomes meaningful in the social content ^[6].

History and Political Science

“History without political science has no fruit and political science without history has no root.” Prof. Seely.

History is a study of the various facts of human life and is closely linked with other social sciences which makes a specific study of different facts of human life. Many scholars held a view that history is the center of the social sciences which feeds other social sciences. But he has to learn the nature of fundamental political principles and basic forms of political institutions. In view of this closeness between two subjects, the development of political institutions, rules, regulations, rights and duties, law and mode of justice, executive, legislative and administrative functions, economic and financial implications, nature of bureaucracy, fundamental principles of state policy are all defined under the constitution history.

Political science is an academic and research discipline that deals with the theory and practice of politics and the description and analysis of political systems and political behavior ^[7]. The relationship between History and Political Science is very close and intimate. No one can discount the dependence of the two disciplines on one another. The state and its political institutions grow instead of being made. They are the product of history and in order to understand them fully one must necessarily know the process of their evolution: how they have become what they are, and to what extent they have responded to their original purposes. All our political institutions have a historical basis as they depict the wisdom of generations ^[8]. History furnishes sufficient materials for comparison and induction, enabling us to build an ideal political structure of our aspirations. In the absence of historical data, the study of Political Science is sure to become entirely speculative or a priori. Moreover, with its chronological treatment, history offers a sense of growth and development thereby providing a base or an insight into social changes. Professor Solatu said, “Where Political Science is not approached through History, the student get a confused outline, in which most historical allusion are lost on him.” ^[9] And the knowledge of History is particularly necessary in the sphere of Comparative Government.

History and Economic

History is also closely related to Economics. As the activities of a man in society are very closely related with the economic matters, the historian of any period must possess at least a rudimentary knowledge of economics. In

fact, the economic history of any period is an important branch of history and its understanding is absolutely essential for the proper understanding of the history of any period. Economics is a social science that seeks to analyze and describe the production, distribution, and consumption of wealth. The word "economics" is from the Greek *oikos*, "family, household, estate," and *nomos*, "custom, law," and hence means "household management" or "management of the state. The study of the "various a stage of economic development requires the tool of comparative methods which brings Economics close to History. The established relationship between History and Economics is as old as the Wealth of Nations. Its foundations were, however, firmly laid by the German Historical School and Karl Marx ^[10].

History has to play a vital role in the verification, construction, modification, and rejection of theories. All Economic theory does not grow in a vacuum. It is a reflection of contemporaneous events, which are transitory. An Economic theory is not only about the present, and becoming consciously interested both in their past and in their future. History begins with the handing down of tradition, and tradition means the carrying of the habits and lessons of the past into the future. Records of the past begin to be kept for the benefit of future generations. Professor Robbins states the following points in the relationship between History and Economics: First, Economics is essentially a unique process in historic times. Therefore, without historical facts and "an adequate amount of historical sense of historical experience economics cannot be understood. Second, the historical report essentially reflects institutional facts; therefore, economic history is the best method to study the interrelationship between the economic and non-economic facts; and the unity of social sciences. Third, most of the fundamental errors currently committed in economic analysis are due to lack of historical experience more often than to any other shortcoming of the economist's equipment ^[11]. Therefore, a new set of economic history the use of economic historians has emerged who try to study economic history by the use of economic tools. At present, history is so closely interlinked with the study of economic problems that it would not be possible to reconstruct history without knowledge of the relevant economic problems.

History and Geography

Universally it is accepted that History and Geography have very close ties. In fact, it would be practically impossible to study; certain branches of history without rudimentary knowledge of geography e.g., diplomatic or military history cannot be followed without necessary geographical knowledge of the region. Geography is one of the eyes of history the other eye being chronology. Time and space factors give history its correct perspective. The relationship between history and geography is especially close because they represent two fundamental dimensions of the same phenomenon. History views human experience from the perspective of time, and geography from the perspective of space. These dimensions of time and space are locked in a symbiotic dance, a perpetual interactive feedback loop in

⁶ Bharat Kumar, What is the relationship between Sociology and History, www.shareyouressays.com Accessed on 12-10-2012, at 1:12am.

⁷ Phone Interview with Suantak Thangminlen Vaiphei, M. A (Pol. Sc.) Hyderabad University, on 11-10-2012, at 1:30pm.

⁸ Gregory J. Wawro and Ira Katznelson, Political Science and History: Enhancing the Methodological Repertoire (New York: Columbia University, ny), 4-7.

⁹ Suhana Dhawan, Relationship between Political Science and History, www.Shareyouressays.com Accessed on 12-10-2012, at 1:30am.

¹⁰ Nathan Nunn, The Importance of History in Economic Development (Massachusetts: Dept. of Economics Harvard University and NBER, Cambridge, 2009), np.

¹¹ Pritam Chatterjee, Inter-Relationship Between History and Economics, blogspot.com Accessed on 12-10-2012, at 1:30am.

which one dimension is constantly affecting the other. Geography is by nature the constant companion of historical studies; it is hardly possible to grasp one without the other^[12]. In the late nineteenth century, historians view Geography generally as the handmaiden to History, and Geography itself was understood by them primarily as physical geography, necessarily providing the context for historical studies and also possibly providing evidence for historians to draw upon.

J.R. Green, in his book "The making of England," says that physical geography has still its part to play in the written record of human history to which it gives so much of its shape and form. He further states that History strikes its roots in Geography, for without a clear and vivid realization of the physical structure of a country, the incidents of the life which men have to live in it can have no interest or meaning^[13].

History and Philosophy: Perhaps the greatest barrier to more effective relations between the history and philosophy of science is the notion that the two disciplines should have a lot to say to each other. The contribution of History to Philosophy is very straight forward. History of philosophy like History of all other disciplines explains the growth of knowledge (Philosophical knowledge) with the passage of time. The history of philosophy exposes philosophy's indebtedness to the historical process in a number of ways^[14]. Firstly, the history of philosophy makes it clear that Philosophy springs from given contexts, and indeed as Bertrand Russell put it: the circumstances of men's lives do much to determine their philosophy. Secondly, History draws attention to the fact that part of the philosopher's task in the words of Haddock is to grasp the rationality of the world that has unfolded before him. His understanding of it is always *ex post facto*. In this wise, it is helpful to consider how the Copernican revolution in astronomy, which postulated that the earth, like other planets, revolved around the sun, affected philosophical thinking. Another example of the influence of the Past or History on Philosophy can be found in Darwinism, on the basis of Darwin's theory of natural selection and survival of the fittest (found on actual observation), a new rational and ethical order was to emerge by showing a preference for those with superior fitness in adapting to it. Thirdly, the history of philosophy apart from being a body of knowledge in its own right is particularly useful in the solution of historical riddles concerning Philosophy. And in this way, the riddle about the origin of Philosophy is considered^[15]. History pointed the way to the solution of long-standing problems concerning the origins of Philosophy. And History has been of central importance in the area of philosophy of science etc.

History and Anthropology: Anthropology is the scientific study of the origins of men. It helped to provide insights into

features of the past that were so strange that modern historians had found them difficult to comprehend or examine. Anthropological works had the effect of distancing the familiar, making historians aware that what they had regarded as normal in the past really required investigation because it was cross-comparatively unusual. A particularly striking example of this was in the field of family relationships. Moreover, the so-called social anthropology which is based on the intensive study of small communities, combined with the post-war archival revolution gave historians a far wider range of sources; it was not possible to attempt total reconstructions of the past communities over long periods^[16].

On the other hand, historical research into many other topics was stimulated by anthropological inquiries; conflicts, ceremony, work discipline, time, space, myths, folklore, style and fashions, oral and literate culture, and many other subjects were investigated. The formal historical documents conceal such a topic so that it was largely under the pressure of anthropology that the vigorous development of the study of the past mental and emotional structures took place. These were exemplified in the work of historians such as E. Hobsbawm, E. Le Roy Ladurie, E.P. Thompson, and Keith Thomas. Moreover, Anthropology is an explicitly comparative discipline and this has forced historians to look at their particular studies in a wider context. Social anthropology has made certain features of the past visible for the first time and provided the logic in what was otherwise incomprehensible^[17].

Discussion and Conclusion

History is about people in society, their actions and interactions, their beliefs and prejudices, and their pasts and presents. 'People in society' mean people as individuals, groups, institutions, communities, states, and nations. History is to society what remembered experience is to an individual, which was further seen as a social necessity. Historians turn to the social sciences for insight into behaviour, making history to be a vigorous evolving discipline able to absorb the best of both scientific and humanistic thought. On the other hand, it would not be wrong to say that Modern historic theory depends largely on statistical data, and the expression of historic laws has become mathematical in nature. Historians have not remained free from the influence of statistics, and a new branch called "Cliometrics" has come into vogue, according to which the use of mathematics has come into greater play in the writing of history. To avoid approximation, ambiguity, and vagueness, historians are using statistics to be precise in their data. But too much use of this science will rob history of all its charm as a fascinating story of the past. It becomes confusing and uninteresting if an algebraical formula is used. The proper use of "Cliometrics" has resulted in what is called Quantified History. But the very nature of historical evidence will resist these scientific modes of expression, and history will essentially remain a humanistic study.

It was since the 1970s historical consciousness has played an important role in articulating an approach to history with

¹² Michael G. Maxwell, Teaching History and Geography, studentsfriend.com Accessed on 13-10- 2012, at 2:03am.

¹³ Alan R. H. Baker, Geography and History: Bridging the Divide (Cambridge: Press Syndicate of the University of Cambridge, 2003), 16-17.

¹⁴ Interplay between History and Philosophy, www.academicjournals.org/ajhc, Accessed on 13-10- 2012 at 12:45am

¹⁵ C. Maduka, "Interplay Between Philosophy and History", African Journal of History and Culture Vol.2, April 2010. P. 31-41.

¹⁶ Dorothy Crozier, "History and Anthropology", International Social Science Journal, Vol. XVII No. 4, April 1965. P. 563-565.

¹⁷ Alan MacFarlane, "Anthropology and History", Blackwell Dictionary of of Historians, ed. John Cannon et al. (Blackwell: BDH, 1988), 2-5.

an ethical mindset. “Emmanuel Levinas” as a philosopher has tried to define ethics in a way that suits the terrible historical condition of humanity in the twentieth century. In his view, ethics is the infinite responsibility towards other human beings. History takes us to the intersection of principles and practice, the place where ethical ideals uneasily coexist with the necessity of choice. Like historical explanations in general, history's moral lessons are deeply embedded in life's messy specificity. Although a true historian is not expected to pass distinct and sensitive judgments on the historical incidents and characters, yet he must know about the ethical principle of the time which influenced the conduct of the people in the past. Probably in the past, there was no reliable ethical science and much of what followed was merely a reflection of the bigotry, partial, and complexity of the different writers. A historian must understand and master this science of ethics to have a wider perspective of the issue.

History is the ultimate manifestation of human behavior, and thus he who wishes to understand the psyche will study history. In history always lies the truth about the human spirit; for every action has a cause rooted in the mind. A more explicit illustration would be the following: History is the meta-representation of psychology. On the other hand, psychology is of great help to history in training a historian in the detection of motives and intentions and in drawing inferences from strange behaviour. Historical studies were enriched by the work of Sigmund Freud (1856-1939) who laid down the basis of psychoanalysis and widened the scope of psychology. Psychology is useful for historical research as activities, experiences, and motives are the matters that are closely studied by historians in understanding the meaning of the activities of eminent men in history. A historian must have to show some psychological insights while making an analysis of the motive and actions of men and societies. The eccentricities and mysterious behaviour of the public leaders which many a time confounds all could be understood properly if Freudian, psychoanalysis is adopted. Adolf Hitler's obsession with anti-Semitism appeared strange in the beginning but the mania to persecute Jews had its origin in his ancestors being of Jewish extraction. Great thinkers of history, from Aristotle to Zoroaster raised questions that today would be considered psychological. They wanted to know how people take information through the senses, use the information to solve problems and become motivated to act in brave or villainous ways. They wondered about the elusive nature of emotion and whether it controls us or it can be controlled. So psychology is the scientific explanation of possible human behaviour in general, especially individual behaviour. History is the description and explanation of specific, actual human behaviour in the past, especially the behavior of large groups like armies and nations and governments, and the unique explanations for those specific events.

References

1. Baker RH. Alan, Geography and History: Bridging the Divide. Cambridge: Press Syndicate of the University of Cambridge; c2003.
2. Nunn Nathan. The Importance of History in Economic Development. Massachusetts: Dept. of Economics Harvard University and NBER, Cambridge; c2009.
3. Rajayan K. A Study in Historiography: History in Theory and Method. Madurai: np; c1982.
4. Wawro J. Gregory and Katznelson, Ira, Political Science and History: Enhancing the Methodological Repertoire. New York: Columbia University, ny. Webster, C B John, Studying History. New Delhi: Rajiv Beri; c1997.
5. Williams Malcolm. Science and Social Science: An Introduction. Np: Psychology Press; c1999.
6. MacFarlane Alan. “Anthropology and History”, Blackwell Dictionary of Historians, ed.
7. John Cannon *et al.* Blackwell: BDH; c1988.
8. Crozier Dorothy, “History and Anthropology”, International Social Science Journal, Vol. 9, XVII No. 4, April 1965.
9. Maduka C. “Interplay Between Philosophy and History”, African Journal of History and Culture Vol. 2, April 2010.
10. Phone Interview with L. Letkhomang Haokip PhD. Research Scholar (Dept. of History)
11. JNU, Delhi, on 12-10-2012, at 1:30am.
12. Phone Interview with Suantak Thangminlen Vaiphei, M. A (Pol. Sc.) Hyderabad University, on 11-10-2012, at 1:30pm.
13. Chaterjee, Pritam, Inter-Relationship Between History and Economics, blogspot.com
14. Accessed on 12-10-2012, at 1:30am.
15. Dhawan, Suhana, Relationship between Political Science and History, www.Shareyouressays.com Accessed on 12-10-2012, at 1:30am.
16. “Interplay between History and Philosophy”, www.academicjournals.org/ajhc, Accessed on 13-10-2012 at 12:45am.
17. Kumar, Bharat, What is the relationship between Sociology and History, www.shareyouressays.com Accessed on 12-10-2012, at 1:12am. Maxwell, G. Michael, Teaching History and Geography, studentsfriend.com Accessed on 13-10-2012, at 2:03 am.